Connecting villages by roads

† 1489. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme to connect all the villages in the country by roads is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, what is the outline of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have estimated the amount to be spent under the said scheme as Rs. 60,000—Rs.80,000 crores;

(d) if so, whether Government have made an assessment regarding the length of roads proposed to be connected to the villages; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Central Government are, at present, engaged in formulating a National Rural Connectivity Programme and have set up a National Rural Road Development Committee whose Report is awaited.

Target under NOAPS and NFAS in Madhya Pradesh

† 1490. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target of Madhya Pradesh in respect of National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Assistance Scheme; and

(b) the achievement made by the State in the year 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The physical targets of Madhya Pradesh in respect of National Old Age Pension Scheme and' National Family Benefit Scheme based on the financial allocation made to the State during 1999-2000 are 4,89,900 and 38,052 respectively.

(b) The achievement made by the State during 1998-99 is 9412% in respect of National Old Age Pension Scheme. The achievement in respect of National Family benefit Scheme is 93.20%

Old Age Pension in Punjab

1491. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided with old age pension in Punjab during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the number of SC/ST provided old age pension; and

(c) the procedure and frequency for providing pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Number of persons benefited under National Old Age Pension Scheme in Punjab during the last two years are as under:

Year	No. of beneficiaries
1997-98	36500
1998-99	36500

(b) There are no ST beneficiaries under National Old Age Pension Scheme in the State. The number of SC persons benefited is 21910.

(c) The applicants—made or female who are 65 years of age or above and who are destitutes in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from their own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources are